

Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SWF-01

IGA-01 ORM-01 SR-02 EB-07 AGR-05 HEW-02 EUR-12 COME-00

EA-06 INT-05 /098 W

----- 120354

O P 071235Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2443

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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DEPT PASS AID/PHA/FORC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON SOCI SO

SUBJECT: DROUGHT EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

REFERENCES: A. MOGADISCIO 1757; B. MOGADISCIO 1722

C. MOGADISCIO 1704; D. MOGADISCIO 1640

1. SUMMARY: VP CULMIE CALLED ME IN DECEMBER 7 TO
EXPLAIN SOMALIA'S NEED FOR DROUGHT EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
AND REQUEST US HELP. I CONSIDER DISASTER SITUATION
EXISTS AND HAVE TOLD CULMIE I WOULD CONTRIBUTE 25
THOUSAND DOLLARS TO SOMALI RED CRESCENT SOCIETY FOR
FOOD, MEDICINES, CLOTHING AND BLANKETS (REQUEST FOR
FISCAL DATE SEPTTEL). I BELIEVE THERE IS GOOD JUSTIFI-
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CATION FOR ADDITIONAL US EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE. IN

VIEW WASHINGTON'S COMMENT THAT ANY ADDITIONAL REQUIRMENTS WOULD NEED TO BE VERY SPECIFIC (STATE 256092) AND THEIR WILLINGNESS PROVIDE AN AID/W DISASTER RELIEF OFFICER (STATE 249160), I RECOMMEND SUCH AN OFFICER BE SENT TO MOGADISCIO SOONEST TO RECOMMEND SPECIFIC US ASSISTANCE. VP CULMIE TOLD ME HE WOULD BE GIVEN ACCESS TO SOMALI OFFICIALS AND DROUGHT-AFFECTED AREAS. HE URGED IMPORTANCE OF SPEED, HOWEVER. END SUMMARY.

2. CULMIE TOLD ME THERE WERE AS OF DECEMBER 5 SIXTY-ONE THOUSAND PERSONS IN REFUGEE CAMPS. NUMBER EXPECTED TO RISE TO 200 THOUSAND BY JANUARY 1, AND GSDR EXPECTS TO HAVE TO PROVIDE FOR ONE MILLION PEOPLE IN OR NEAR CAMPS BY TIME OF NEXT HARVEST IN SEPTEMBER. CATTLE AND SHEEP IN AFFECTED AREAS ARE "FINISHED". THERE ARE STILL SOME CAMELS AND GOATS. SOMALIA IS DOING ALL IT CAN BUT WILL NEED HELP.

3. BASED ON CULMIE'S PRESENTATION AND WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED FROM UNDP AND OTHER SOURCES HERE (WHICH HAS BEEN REPORTED IN REFTELS) AND UNPRO EXPERT STANISSIS REPORT (REF. D), I CONSIDER DISASTER SITUATION EXISTS WITHIN MEANING OF FOREIGN DISASTER RELIEF HANDBOOK.

4. I TOLD CULMIE I PREPARED TO USE MY DISCRETIONARY FUND OF 25 THOUSAND DOLLARS (PER AUTHORITY CONTAINED STATE 249160 AND STATE 256092). AFTER SOME DISCUSSION HE AND MINISTER OF HEALTH STATED THEY WOULD LIKE THIS MONEY GIVEN TO SOMALI RED CRESCENT SOCIETY FOR USE IN PURCHASE OF FOOD, MEDICINES, CLOTHING AND BLANKETS. UNDP HEAD INFORMS ME RED CRESCENT IS WELL ORGANIZED, IN TOUCH WITH INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS, AND QUITE CAPABLE OF USING EFFICIENTLY ANY FUNDS WE MIGHT MAKE AVAILABLE. I THEREFORE INTEND PRESENT MONEY TO RED CRESCENT AS SOON AS FISCAL DETAILS CAN BE ARRANGED.

5. CULMIE EMPHASIZED THAT SOMALIA'S NEEDS MUCH GREATER AND GSDR COUNTING ON US, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF GOOD CONVERSATION BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESIDENT SIAD LAST OCTOBER. I SAID US MIGHT BE PREPARED SEND DISASTER RELIEF OFFICER TO SOMALIA TO ASSESS SOMALI NEEDS BUT HE COULD ONLY BE USEFUL IF HE COULD HAVE ACCESS TO SOMALI OFFICIALS AND VISIT AFFECTED AREAS. CULMIE GAVE ME HIS ASSURANCES ON BOTH POINTS. HE URGED SPEEDY ACTION AND ASKED IF DISASTER ASSISTANCE COULD BE EXTENDED PRIOR THIS INDIVIDUAL'S ARRIVAL. I SAID I HOPED INDIVIDUAL IN QUESTION COULD

GET HERE QUITE QUICKLY.

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ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

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IGA-01 ORM-01 SR-02 EB-07 AGR-05 HEW-02 EUR-12 COME-00

EA-06 INT-05 /098 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2444

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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6. I BELIEVE AID ABOVE AND BEYOND 25 THOUSAND DOLLARS IS WELL WARRANTED. IT IS CLEAR THAT EMERGENCY SITUATION EXISTS, ONE WHICH PART OF MORE GENERAL AFRICAN DROUGHT PROBLEM. GSDR HAS RECOGNIZED THIS FACT, IS DEVOTING ITS QUITE CONSIDERABLE ENERGY AND ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES TO COPE WITH SITUATION AND HAS ASKED US FOR HELP. NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES ARE HELPING (SEE BELOW) AND MORE WILL PRESUMABLY FOLLOW, BUT US HELP IS NEEDED TO MEET THIS SERIOUS SITUATION. HELP FROM US WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH OUR HUMANITARIAN TRADITIONS AND FITTING RESPONSE TO SOMALI DESIRE IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH US, AS EXPRESSED BY PRESIDENT SIAD TO PRESIDENT FORD. US HAS TAKEN LEADING ROLE IN MEETING DROUGHT EMERGENCY IN OTHER PARTS OF AFRICA AND ITS FAILURE MAKE MORE THAN 25 THOUSAND DOLLAR EFFORT HERE WOULD BE

VIEWED AS EXPRESSION OF INDIFFERENCE TO FATE OF
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SUFFERING PEOPLE AND HOSTILITY TO SOMALI GOVERNMENT.

7. WE UNDERSTAND VISITING FRG PARLIAMENTARY SECSTATE FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION PROMISED SOMALIS ONE MILLION MARKS FOR FOOD, MEDICINES, ETC. AND HALF MILLION MARKS TO PURCHASE TRUCKS TO TRANSPORT WATER. THIS WAS REPORTED BY SOMALI PRESS WHICH ALSO STATES CHINESE RED CROSS HAS DONATED FOUR THOUSAND TONS OF SORGHUM AND 40 THOUSAND YUAN IN MEDICINES AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT. SOVIET AMBASSADOR TOLD ME HIS GOVERNMENT WAS SHIPPING SEVERAL THOUSAND TONS OF GRAIN, PRINCIPALLY MAIZE.

8. WE UNDERSTAND FROM UNDP HEAD THAT WFP STILL LOOKING FOR 900 TONS MAIZE IT AUTHORIZED PURCHASE (REF. A) TO MEET SOMALIA'S FIRST EMERGENCY REQUEST. TEN TONS MILK POWDER HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE FROM LOCAL UNDP STOCKS AND 45 MORE TONS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE BY SHIP JAN. 9. REMAINDER OF 90 TONS REQUESTED BY SOMALIS WILL BE SENT LATER. MEDICINES IN SOMALI INITIAL REQUEST HAVE ALL ARRIVED, DONATED BY UNICEF AND FLOWN GRATIS BY AIR SOMALIA AND ALITALIA. UNDP HEAD EXPECTS FAO WILL SHORTLY AUTHORIZE PURCHASE FIVE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED TONS MORE GRAIN TO FEED AN ADDITIONAL 150 THOUSAND PEOPLE FOR THREE MONTHS. UNDP THREE-MAN SWEDISH TERRA-TEST TEAM HAS BEEN ASKED PROLONG ITS STAY IN SOMALIA TO PLAN FOR WELL DRILLING. UNDP HAS RECEIVED 100 THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM HEADQUARTERS FOR THIS PURPOSE AND IS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN RECEIVE ANOTHER 800 THOUSAND FOR DRILLING ITSELF. TWO TECHNICIANS AND A LAWYER TO DRAW UP CONTRACT ARE EXPECTED WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS.
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